

A SIERRA FIRE.

A long, low murmur in the midnight air,
As of the tide upon some far off shore,
A swell among the pines came o'er,
A whisper as of distant o'er,
A strange light growing up in the hollow sky,
Eclipsing the white glow of the moon,
A flash on the wind streaming by,
Of wreaths of smoke outflung, has followed soon.

Out of the darkness starts a tongue of fire,
Wrapping the white trunk of some dead old pine,
Mounting in fierce and absolute desire
To reach the glowing heavens' altar shrine.
The dark is flooded with the crimson light,
The green pines shiver in the fire's roar.
The scene of grandeur grows upon the sight,
And the dark flames sweep upward, fold on fold.
And the wide domain leaves arch'd to over.

The hollow circles of the smoke unroll
Against a sky of palpitating flame,
Wrapping above the pines, scroll upon scroll,
Swelling and rising in the crimson stain.
The moon is dead, the stars' green points of light
Merge in the drifting sparks that fill the night.
And the great flames sweep upward, fold on fold,
And the dark flames sweep upward, fold on fold.

THE PASHA'S SNUFF-BOXES.

Some half-a-dozen years previous to the sudden collapse of the Napoleonic dynasty, in 1870, a certain sensation was excited in Paris by the arrival in that city of an Oriental potentate of ambiguous nationality, but popularly known and spoken of as "The Pasha." Whether he came from Turkey or from Egypt was regarded as a matter of comparatively small importance; the two essential points in his favor were, first, that he was undoubtedly the possessor of an immense fortune, and, secondly—a slight recommendation in the Luteletian capital—that he spoke French with tolerable fluency.

As a matter of course, so desirable an acquisition to Parisian society became the lion of the hour, and no sooner was it ascertained that a specious host, overlooking the Pare de Monceaux had been engaged and furnished for the reception of his excellency and suite, than a host of visitors, official and non-official, hastened to ascribe their names in a book deposited for the purpose in the porter's lodge. Every day brought a fresh installment of signatures, until before a week had elapsed, the list threatened to rival in length the traditional catalogue of Leporello.

Russell Pasha—an assumed title, it fancy, but the one by which he was generally known—was short and corpulent, of sallow complexion and reserved manners; he spoke little, but what he did say was concise and to the point. He was not particularly observant, but chary of expressing his opinion of what he saw and heard; only one instance being recorded of a temporary departure of his habitual taciturnity. Having been persuaded by a member of the French Jockey club to accompany him to the opera, he was escorted by his eunuchs to the foyer de la danse; thereby occasioning great excitement among the ladies of the corps de ballet, many of whom doubtless anticipated that, in accordance with the astute customs, the ceremony of throwing the handkerchief would be reserved for their own especial glorification. Nothing of the sort, however, occurred. After a very cursory glance at the assembled sylphs, and a muttered ejaclation which sounded remarkably like "Mauvais a balai" (broomsticks), the visitor turned abruptly on his heels, and curtly intimated his desire to return to his box.

A few minutes later Count—was startled by a sudden display of animation on the part of his companion, who was gazing with absorbed attention at an enormously stout lady occupying the entire front of one of the stage boxes.

"Ah, la belle femme!" enthusiastically exclaimed the pasha. "Look, is she not superb?"

"I'm," replied the Jockey club exquisite, hardly able to repress a smile, "that is a matter of taste. Does not your Excellency think her perhaps on the whole a trifle too voluminous?"

"Jamaica port, monsieur!" indignantly retorted Hussein. "Jamaica port!"

After a sojourn of three months in Paris, the pasha, who had employed a considerable portion of his time in a practical study of the latest inventions and improvements, scientific and mechanical, with a view of introducing them into his own dominions, announced his intention of bringing up his establishment and returning to the east. Before doing so, however, he was desirous of expressing his acknowledgments in the shape of a suitable memento to the friends of high standing who had been particularly serviceable to him in his researches, and consulted his secretary, an intelligent young Frenchman on the subject.

"M. Morin," he said, after explaining his project, "it seems to me that the simplest way would be to send a few thousand francs to each of them."

"Pardon me, your highness," objected the secretary, "if I venture to remind you that a present of money would be considered a breach of etiquette, and consequently repudiated as an insult."

"You French are a very singular people," observed the pasha. "With us, no matter how rich a man may be, he is not fool enough to resist a lady's smile. He can get them. What, then, would you advise me to do?"

"May I be allowed to suggest," replied Morin, "that an object of artistic value would be a fitting token of your highness' good will—a gold snuff-box, for instance."

"The very thing," said Hussein approvingly. "Where are such articles to be found?"

"At Dorr's, in the Rue de la Paix."

"Good. Let him know exactly what I require, and see that he is here precisely at 12 to-morrow."

On being admitted to the pasha's presence, at the appointed hour, M. Dorr produced, among other specimens of his handiwork, a gold snuff-box, exquisitely finished, and encircled with miniature-sized diamonds, the interior of the lid bearing the jeweler's name engraved in microscopic characters. Hussein examined it minutely, and inquired the price.

"Four thousand francs, your highness," replied Dorr.

"I will take it on condition that you engage to supply me with seventeen other boxes, exactly similar to this."

"Impossible, monsieur," said the jeweler. "I have only six of this pattern in stock. Still, I will be pleased to make a reflection of the pasha's order, and endeavor to secure it for you."

"In a fortnight from to-day."

"That will be quite sufficient. The six snuff-boxes shall be delivered to-day, and they can be distributed immediately. In a few days more will be ready, and I think I can promise the remaining half dozen before the time fixed for your highness' departure."

On the following day the six boxes, which were by a complimentary letter, written by Morin and signed by the Pasha, were duly transmitted to the privileged individuals heading the list. Towards the end of the week, the jeweler reappeared according to promise with a second installment of another half-dozen, which were also forwarded to their destination; and before the fortnight had expired, five more snuff-boxes were in his highness' possession.

The Pasha expressed himself perfectly satisfied with the prompt execution of his order. "It is evident," he said, "that the recipients of my gifts are highly pleased, for I have received the most flattering letters from all of them except one."

"Except one, did your highness say?" anxiously inquired Dorr.

"Yes. My secretary informs me that one of the gentlemen at whose house my presence was left is absent from Paris, which accounts for his silence, and that he is not expected back until Sunday, the day after my intended departure. But," intimated the pasha, "how is this, Mr. Dorr? You have brought me only five boxes. Where is the sixth? It is absolutely essential that no one on my list should be neglected."

"Your highness may rest assured that your orders will be implicitly obeyed," replied the jeweler. "If M. Morin will kindly acquaint me with the name and address of the person for whom the box is destined, it shall be delivered to him on Wednesday without fail."

"Exactly similar to those, of course?"

"I can safely guarantee, your highness, that there will not be a shade of difference between them."

"Very good," said the Pasha; "I rely on you, Mr. Dorr. My secretary will pay you the 25,000 francs, and on next visit you

Paris you will probably hear from me again. An revoir, M. Dorr."

If anyone, endowed with the peculiar faculties of Asmodeus, had penetrated some ten evenings later into the small room forming the back shop and private sanctum of the well-known jeweller of the Rue de la Paix, he would have been enlightened as to the ordinary business carried on by M. Dorr. He would have seen that es. imable tradesman seated at a table, on which were lying six gold snuff-boxes, bearing a certain superficial resemblance to those recently purchased by his highness, the pasha, and carefully polishing each in turn with a silk handkerchief.

When he came back to me again, every one of them," muttered Mr. Dorr, with a self-satisfied chuckle, while delicately removing a speck of dust from the last of the half dozen. "No one ever keeps them long. For snuff-boxes are locked-up capital, and everybody from Napoleon downward, knows the value of ready money. They discover my name inside the box and naturally bring it to my mind, as I treat them liberally. I am safe to see them again. A very fair fortnight's work, I must say," he added, consulting an open account book, in which the following statement was legibly inscribed:

To sale of 18 gold snuff-boxes at 1,500 francs each.....	27,000
Less from above commission to secretary (10% follow that, by the way, "large follow that, by the way," said M. Dorr, at 50 francs per box.....	2,700
To repurchase of 18 gold snuff-boxes from their owners at 2,000 francs each.....	36,000
Total net profit.....	32,300

"Not to mention," pleasantly summed up the jeweller, "that the snuff-boxes are ready for a second addition of the little game, whenever another Pasha happens to come this way."—Charles Harvey, in the Argosy.

METAL TIES FOR RAILROADS.

The Substitute for Wooden Cross-Ties on an Experiment.

The forests of the country are being rapidly destroyed and the days of the wooden cross-ties are therefore numbered, says the Macon, Ga., Telegraph. Within a few years the metal tie of metal will be in universal use. The recent railroad congress in Paris recognized this fact.

The metal cross-tie is not an experiment. It is a demonstrated success. The report of the chief engineer of the Western Railroad of Switzerland, the principal line in the little republic, states that since 1883 metal cross-ties have been systematically used for renewals on the line of that road. They have been subjected to severe tests of climate, grades and curves and have held good. Of the 125,000 metal ties laid in 1883, only forty-three have since been removed for breakage or any other imperfection. The average life of the wooden cross-tie is not much over the period covered by this small expense account.

It is certain that out of the same number of oak cross-ties, which are the best made of wood, at least 25,000, instead of forty-three, would by this time have required renewal. The experience of the Swiss engineer proves that after the first year there is a marked decrease in the ordinary cost of maintaining the roadbed when metal ties are used. One Swiss company shows by its report that on a section of thirteen miles laid with metal ties as compared with the same length laid with new wooden ties, the cost of maintenance, not renewal, was for the third year \$870 for the metal tie section, while the wooden tie section cost \$1563. After long-continued tests, the Prussian railways have adopted metal ties as the best and, in the end, the cheapest. Since 1886 1,065,170 metal ties have been laid on Prussian railways. The Mexican railway company has adopted a steel cross-tie as its standard, and this year has laid 100 miles of track with it. The reports of the cost of maintaining the track thus laid prove that metal ties pay better than wood. The Pennsylvania railroad paid last year for the maintenance of 2,292 miles of railroad \$8,819,500, or nearly \$2,800 a mile. A large part of this expense was for the renewal of wooden cross-ties. The original cost of cross-ties is increasing constantly, and the expense of keeping up a roadbed laid with them grows also by reason of the increased traffic and the greater speed of trains. The Pennsylvania, the New York Central and the Chicago and Wisconsin railroads are now experimenting with metal ties. The probability is that they will all very soon use the cross-ties of the future, the metal tie. Its general use is only a question of a short time. It will conduce to greater economy in railroad management and will help to stay the needless ravages upon our forests.

Reduced Rates for the Holidays.

The Union Pacific, "The Overland Route," will sell tickets for the holidays between all stations in Montana on its lines at one and one-half fare for the round trip. Tickets will be on sale December 24th, 25th and 31st, 1889, and January 1st, 1890, good going on date of sale and good for return passage up to and including January 3d, 1890.

Take advantage of this reduced rate and spend Christmas and New Years with your relatives or friends.

For any information as regards time of trains, rates, etc., apply to the nearest Union Pacific agent or

E. L. LOMAX,
General Passenger Agent,
Omaha.

NOTICE TO MINISTERS.

All ministers who have not received application blanks for half fare permits for 1890, good on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern and Minneapolis & St. Louis railways, can do so by calling on the undersigned in Montana National Bank building.

JOHN J. FALLON,
General Agent.

What Do You Know

About the Superb Pullman Dining Cars which have been recently placed in service via the Union Pacific, "The Overland Route?" They run on the fast Vestibule Express between Council Bluffs and Denver and on "The Limited Fast Mail" between Council Bluffs and Portland.

If you want to get a sumptuous meal while traveling, don't fail to ride the train, and use these Dining Cars. Meals, which cannot be surpassed in any of the first-class hotels in the country, are served in these cars at 75c, each.

The Verdict Unanimous.

W. D. Salt, druggist, Bippus, Ind., testifies: "I can recommend Electric Bitters as the very best remedy. Every bottle sold has given relief in every case. One man took six bottles and was cured of rheumatism of ten years' standing. Abraham Hare, druggist, Belleville, Ohio, affirms: "The best selling medicine I have ever handled in my twenty years' experience, is Electric Bitters." Thousands of others have added their testimony, so that the verdict is unanimous that Electric Bitters do cure all diseases of the liver, kidneys or blood. Only half a dollar a bottle at H. S. Hale & Co.'s drug store.

Do you have dyspeptic troubles? Take Hood's Sassafras. It has relieved thousands and will cure you. Sold by druggists.

Cure for Piles.

Reaching piles are known by moisture like perspiration, producing a very disagreeable itching after getting warm. This form, as well as blind, bleeding and protruding piles yield at once to the application of Dr. Bosanko's Pile Remedy, which acts directly upon the piles, relieving itching and effecting a permanent cure. Fifty cents. Address The Dr. Bosanko Medicine Company, Piquette, Ohio. Sold by H. S. Hale & Co.

There was a terrible epidemic of dysentery and bloody flux in Pope county, Illinois, last summer. As many as five deaths occurred in one day. Messrs. Walter Brothers, of Waltersburg, sold over 380 boxes of Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy during this epidemic, and say they never heard of its failing in any case where the direct-

tions were followed. It was the only medicine used that did cure the worst cases. Many persons were cured by it after the doctors had given them up. Twenty-five and 50-cent bottles for sale by H. M. Patches & Co.

Reg's Cherry Cough Syrup.

Is giving splendid satisfaction to the trade and the sales are positively marvelous, which can be accounted for in no other way except that it is without doubt the best on the market. Ask for and be sure you get the genuine. We keep it, H. S. Hale & Co., Druggists.

Hood's Sassafras is purely a vegetable preparation, being free from injurious ingredients. It is peculiar in its curative power.

A Good Cough Syrup.

There is nothing parents should be so careful about as selecting a cough syrup. Reg's Cherry Cough Syrup, costs no more than cheap and inferior syrups, but is known to be the best. The best is none too good, be sure and get REG'S CHERRY COUGH SYRUP. We keep it on hand at all times. H. S. Hale & Co.,

A fire destroyed the factory of Mitchell & Shepard, at Bradford, Eng. Loss \$150,000.

SYRUP OF FIGS.



Combines the juice of the Blue Figs of California, so laxative and nutritious, with the medicinal virtues of plants known to be most beneficial to the human system, forming the ONLY PERFECT REMEDY to act gently yet promptly on the

KIDNEYS, LIVER AND BOWELS

Clears the System Effectually,

PURE BLOOD,

REFRESHING SLEEP,

HEALTH AND STRENGTH

Naturally follow. Every one is using it and all are delighted with it. Ask your druggist for SYRUP OF FIGS. Manufactured only by the

CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO.,

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. NEW YORK, N. Y.

The Celebrated French Cure,

Warranted "APHRODITINE" or money refunded.

IS SOLD ON A POSITIVE GUARANTEE

TO CURE ANY FORM OF GONORRHOEA, OR ANY DISORDER OF THE GENITRATIVE ORGANS OF EITHER SEX WITHOUT ARISING FROM THE

EXCESSIVE USE OF STIMULANTS, TOBACCO OR OPIMUM, OR THROUGH YOUTHFUL INDULGENCE, OVER EATING, OR ACUTE OR CHRONIC POISON, OR THROUGH EXCESSIVE SEXUAL INTERCOURSE, OR THROUGH WEAKNESS, OR THROUGH NERVOUS PROSTRATION, OR THROUGH EMISSION, OR THROUGH BRUISES, OR THROUGH LOSS OF POWER AND IMPOTENCY, WHICH IT IS GUARANTEED TO CURE IN EVERY CASE.

A WRITTEN GUARANTEE for every \$10.00 order, to return the money if a permanent cure is not effected. Thousands of testimonials from old and young of both sexes, permanent cures by APHRODITINE. Circular free. Address THE APHRODITINE CO.,

WESTER BRANCH, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Sold by H. S. Hale & Co., wholesale and retail druggists, 111, 113, 115, 117 and 119 Broadway, N. Y.

LOTTERY

—OF THE—

Beneficencia Publica.

Established in 1887

—BY THE—

MEXICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

Operated Under a Twenty Years' Contract.

—BY THE—

Mexican International Improvement Co.

Grand Monthly Drawings held in the Morosque Pavilion in the Alameda Park, City of Mexico, and publicly conducted by Government Officials appointed for the purpose by the Secretaries of the Interior and the Treasury.

The monthly Four Dollar Drawing will be held

—IN THE—

City of Mexico,

Thursday, January 9, 1890.

CAPITAL PRIZE, \$60,000!

80,000 Tickets at \$1, \$320,000.

2,370 Prizes, amounting to \$178,350.

Prizes of 100,000 American Money.

Wholes, \$4; Halves, \$2; Quarters, \$1.

LIST OF PRIZES:

1 Capital Prize of \$60,000 is \$60,000

1 Capital Prize of 20,000 is 20,000

1 Capital Prize of 10,000 is 10,000

1 Grand Prize of 2,000 is 2,000

100 Prizes of 1,000 is 100,000

100 Prizes of 500 is 50,000

100 Prizes of 250 is 25,000

100 Prizes of 100 is 10,000

100 Prizes of 50 is 5,000

100 Prizes of 25 is 2,500

100 Prizes of 10 is 1,000

100 Prizes of 5 is 500

100 Prizes of 2 is 200

100 Prizes of 1 is 100

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